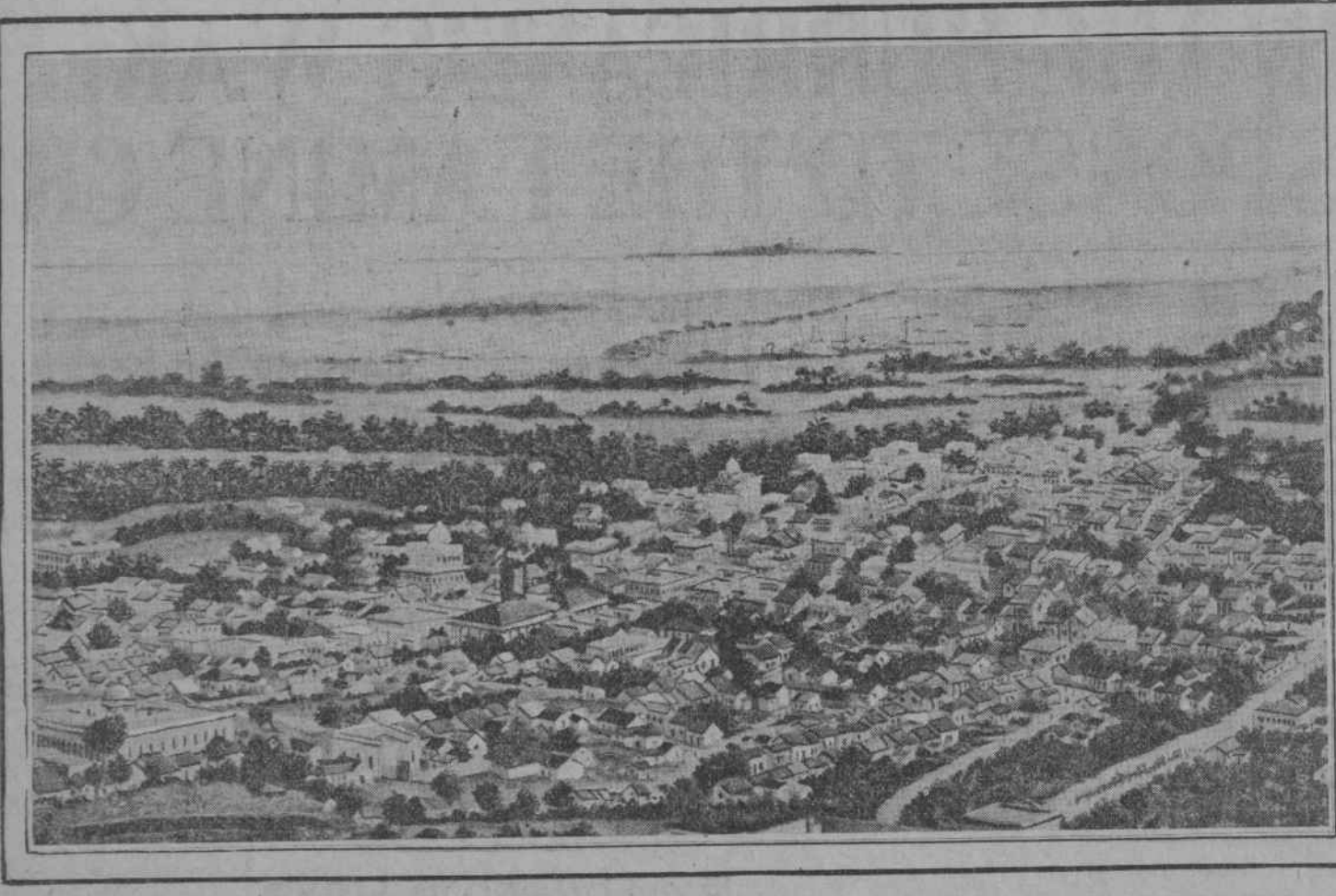


# WAR DEPARTMENT RUSHES FOOD TO PORTO RICO.



**Bird's Eye View of Ponce, Where Hundreds of Lives Were Lost.**

Every building in the city was damaged, hundreds were destroyed and the whole place is under water. Starvation faces the inhabitants. The drinking water, gas, ice and electric light supply were cut off. Cavalry had to disperse the angry inhabitants, who blamed the Alcalde for not warning them.

Port de Ponce, are all gone. The beach is covered with wrecks, for there was a great deal of small boat traffic carried on in the harbor.

## Hosts of Children Overwhelmed and Drowned.

Among the dead are a great number of children. They were principally overwhelmed in the streets on the outskirts of the town. Many bodies are said to have been carried into the sea, and more bodies are being cast up constantly by the river.

Arroyo, to the eastward of Porto Rico, and Guyana are reported to have suffered even more in proportion than Ponce. The railroad that ran along the coast from Ponce to Yauco is a wreck, and the river now flows on what was the military road.

In the interior Juana Diaz reports a loss of fifty dead and many injured. Only the old church passed through the storm without injury. The other buildings of the town are in various stages of dilapidation.

The capital, Aibonita, suffered much in its buildings, the barracks being among the structures overthrown, but there is no report of loss of life. The wires being down and the military road being impassable no word has reached Ponce from the cities further north.

## Famine and Pestilence Feared.

A late report says that Salinas and San Ysabel have to be added to the list of wrecked towns. In the cattle country the storm inflicted terrific damage and whole herds of beef cattle were destroyed. The crops are ruined, and Ponce is appealing to the outside world for food to keep off famine. Hot weather has succeeded the storm and pestilence is feared.

The cyclone struck Santo Domingo with less fury, but at Porto Plata the wharves were wrecked, many houses were thrown down and three barges and two large schooners were cast upon the beach.

This place, Cape Haytien, was struck by the tail of the cyclone between 8 and 9 of the evening. It unroofed many buildings, uprooted trees and sank two schooners.

## A Warning Saved Santiago de Cuba.

Points to the westward on the north coast suffered much. Santiago de Cuba reports that the hurricane struck that place at 3 o'clock yesterday evening and continued to blow frightfully at 3 in the morning. But the warning of the signal service saved the shipping, and little damage was done. The cyclone passed across Santiago province, doing a little damage at Baracoa on the north coast, and appeared to take its direction toward the Bahamas.

Besides the losses reported there must have been enormous damage to shipping among the West Indies. At nearly all the ports ships and steamers are loaded from lighters, and the lighters usually lie out full of goods. It is known that twenty-three of these barges fully laden for the steamship Canada were sunk in the Leeward Isles, and later reports will doubtless show similar losses from all the islands.

At this time nearly every message over the cables is an appeal for help.

## THREE HUNDRED DROWNED AT PONCE.

The City Short of Food; Vessels Driven Ashore; the Alcalde Deceased; All Crops Ruined.

**Ponce, Aug. 11.**—The worst storm ever experienced here struck this place on Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock and lasted two hours. It came from the northeast. Ponce was flooded at midnight, and at least 300 persons were drowned. Two hundred bodies, mostly those of poor people and including many children, have been recovered. All the buildings are damaged and hundreds have been destroyed.

The soldiers and firemen worked all night, heroically saving lives. There was no drinking water, gas, ice or electric light.

The commissary stores at Playa were destroyed, the city is short of food and the army officers are distributing rations. Fifteen vessels in the harbor were driven ashore.

The Weather Bureau predicted the storm, but it is said that Ponce was not warned. A mob of 1,000 persons threatened the Alcalde, Porraza Dorla, but they were dispersed by the Fifth Cavalry. The Alcalde has been deposed on account of negligence. Major Myers, of the Eleventh Infantry, is acting as Alcalde in response to popular demand.

The sum of \$5,000 will be needed to clean the streets. The sanitary condition is serious and assistance is needed.

All the crops are totally ruined, the wires are all down and little news is obtainable from the interior.

Aibonita, including the barracks, has been destroyed, but no lives were lost there. Juana Diaz has been devastated. Forty-six lives were lost there.

Salinas and San Isabel are reported to have been demolished totally.

The railroad between Ponce and Yauco has been destroyed and the military road is

impassable. The river is flowing over the road for two miles. Mayaguez escaped serious injury. Bananas are the sole food here. The peasants have gone to San Juan and its vicinity, which are comparatively uninjured.

## DEATH IN THE STORM IN RURAL PORTO RICO.

From Many Points Come Stories of Loss of Life and Destruction of Property.

**San Juan de Porto Rico, Aug. 11.**—Arroyo, on the south coast, has been de-royed, sixteen lives were lost there and the town is still submerged. At Guayama the houses are still standing. Seven persons were killed there. Many houses were pillaged, squads of soldiers were unable to maintain order and starvation threatens the population. The water supply of San Juan has been stopped. The Casino Springs Hotel has been wrecked. It belonged to the Porto Rico Company, of Philadelphia.

## SANTIAGO CAUGHT HER HEAVIEST STORM.

Roofs Undermined and Roofs Blown Away—Severe Weather in the Windward Passage.

**SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Aug. 11.**—The heaviest storm known here in fifteen years struck the city yesterday. Rain and lightning were incessant for almost twenty-four hours. Several houses on streets in the lower part of the city were undermined, and a good deal of damage, though nothing very serious, was done elsewhere.

In the American camp nearly half the tents were blown down.

The Ward Line steamer Santiago, Cap-

tain Leighton, from New York August 3, via Nassau, where she arrived August 7, reached this port this morning, having met with severe weather in the Windward Passage. The heavy seas damaged the bridge somewhat.

## PROMPT ACTION BY THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

Secretary Root Orders Relief to Be Sent and Appeals to the Country for Aid.

**WASHINGTON, Aug. 11.**—The official report from General Davis, at San Juan, detailing the terrible work of the hurricane, had scarcely been scanned by Secretary Root this morning when he called into conference Brigadier-General Weston, commissary-general; Brigadier-General Ludington, quartermaster-general; General Miles and Adjutant-General Corbin to discuss relief measures.

Secretary Root had telegraphed to the President the substance of all information received, and before the conference adjourned the President had instructed the Secretary to do all that the War Department could legitimately do.

The Secretary ascertained from the Quartermaster-General that the most available vessel was the transport McPherson, at New York, due to sail for Porto Rico on Wednesday next. Mr. Root gave orders that she should sail as early on Monday as possible.

Commissary-General Weston advised the Secretary that he could furnish 600,000 pounds of rice and 600,000 pounds of beans, the classes of food suggested by General Davis as most needed by the Porto Rican sufferers. General Weston told the Secretary that this shipment would be enough for rations for 100,000 people for 100 days.

Secretary Root directed that the rations be loaded with all dispatch on the McPherson.

The source of humanity, indignation, is now con-

## DAVIS APPEALS FOR IMMEDIATE AID.

**WASHINGTON, Aug. 11.**—General Davis cables to the War Department from San Juan as follows:

Later reports show that hurricane was far more severe in interior and southern part of island than here. Data for estimate of number of Porto Ricans who have lost everything are deficient, but I am forced to believe the number on the island cannot fall below 100,000 souls, and a famine is impending. I ask that two and one-half million pounds of rice and beans, equal quantities of each, be shipped immediately on transports to Ponce. Some here. Urgent appeals to all post commanders for food for the destitute.

Am I authorized to relieve distress by food issues? Rice and beans only desired. There have been many deaths of natives by falling walls. So far only one soldier reported dangerously injured. Several towns reported entirely demolished. As yet have reports from only four ports. Complete destruction of all barracks at two, and at two others one company of each had barracks destroyed. Troops are in canvas. No reports yet from the largest ports, Ponce and Mayaguez, but they were in the vortex of the storm. At least half of the people in Porto Rico subsist entirely on fruit and vegetables, and storm has entirely destroyed this source of support.



General Davis.

## GENERAL HENRY SAYS WE SHOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE.



**PLATTSBURG, N. Y., Aug. 11.**—To the Editor of the New York Journal: In reply to your telegram asking what the United States should do for Porto Rico in her distress, I say "everything possible."

She came to us with open heart and hands, and now we should show our regard for her loyalty and gain her love, respect and future firm adherence by helping her now when in distress.

My heart feels kindly for these gentle, patient and lovable people, and I pray the people of the United States, independent of the Government, to come now promptly to the front and show Porto Rico, our loyal colony and really our own people, what true American manhood and womanhood can do to those in distress or in need of aid. God bless the Porto Ricans, I say, and sooth their present anguish and loss in their beautiful island.

**GUY V. HENRY,**  
Brigadier-General, United States Army.

**Navy Will Act Promptly.**

**ACTING SECRETARY ALLEN.**—The Navy Department will, of course, cooperate in every way to alleviate the suffering in Porto Rico. The department will be advised by Commander Snow, at San Juan, of what the navy can best do, and that will be done promptly.

**War Department Already Busy.**

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY MEIKLEJOHN.**—Everything that can relieve suffering and give comfort to the destitute ought to be done, and I am sure the Government will not be lacking in that respect. All the machinery of the War Department has been set in motion, and before many hours have elapsed ships laden with supplies will be on their way to Porto Rico. There never yet has been a famine within the territory of the United States, and I do not now apprehend at this day, with such an era of prosperity in the United States, that we are to fail in our duty to our fellow man. We must remember that the people of Porto Rico owe allegiance to our flag; that they are to all intents and purposes American citizens.

**Are Entitled to Our Assistance.**

**BRIGADIER-GENERAL GILMORE.**—I know this Government will go on it can to help the people of Porto Rico. They have renounced their allegiance to Spain; they were among the first to welcome our troops, and are entitled to all the protection and aid that go to the American citizen. The food that has been ordered to be sent them to-day is in the shape of army rations, but there will be other supplies which cannot be handled by the army as an organization. I have dealt out army rations on the frontier to help the destitute many a time, and I know from experience that other things are needed. This Government is rich and powerful and will deal with this great disaster in an effective manner.



**Loading Relief for Porto Rico.**

The United States transport McPherson will sail at noon on Monday with more than 1,250,000 bushels of rice and beans for the starving and homeless victims of the hurricane.

## RELIEF SHIP TO SAIL ON MONDAY.

Transport McPherson Will Take a Cargo for the Hungry.

The big transport McPherson—formerly the Holland-America steamship Odham—will leave this port next Monday noon with fully 1,500,000 pounds of rice and beans for the suffering Porto Ricans.

The McPherson is lying at the Government pier at Pacific street, Brooklyn, and truckload after truckload of bags of rice and beans were dumped there last night.

Major John Little, of the Commissary Department, is in charge of the work of loading this vessel, and he has sent agents throughout the city to engage every pound of rice and beans they can get. The agents took all that each dealer had in stock and a list of places was furnished yesterday to John Hamman, the Government truckman, who has fifty trucks in service.

These trucks will be kept busy all to-day gathering up the rice and beans from all parts of the city. Fully 300,000 pounds from the Army building were dumped on the pier last night. The lower holds of the McPherson had been filled even with the "twelve deck beams" when the longshoremen knocked off work at 4 p. m., and it was decided not to work the vessel further until this morning, so as to allow the placing of some extra ventilators. This alone prevented the stowing of the beans and rice from the Army building, but the stevedore in charge of the longshore gang said he would have his men at work at daylight this morning.

After the bags on the pier have been stowed, those arriving on the trucks will be taken care of.

The 1,500,000 bags by no means represent the capacity of the transport. She can take a cargo of 5,000 tons without the least trouble, and if more food is given there will be no difficulty in stowing it.

Major Little, who is buying the rice and beans under orders from the War Department, said there would be no difficulty in obtaining the amount needed. The Department authorized a purchase of 600,000 pounds of rice and a similar amount of beans, but it is estimated that there will be fully 300,000 pounds more than the order calls for. Major Little said he was giving the purchases his personal supervision.

"I will carry it all in bags if possible," he said, "but if not I will not hesitate to use barrels."

"I would not hesitate to pile the rice on deck in bags if we should get enough to make it necessary," said the boss stevedore. "We could put tarpaulins over the freight and it would go all right. Rice on deck will carry safely."

Besides her rice and beans cargo the McPherson will take a lot of hay for the army horses, and 100,000 feet of lumber to be used in rebuilding the barracks at San Juan.

On board the McPherson yesterday it was said that she would leave her pier promptly at noon Monday. Her cargo is expected to be on board fully an hour before that time, and if necessary longshoremen will be kept at work all Sunday to accomplish this.

## CABLES NOT INJURED, BUT LAND LINES ARE WRECKED.

The superintendent of the Commercial Cable Company said yesterday afternoon: "The cables and coast lines of our company are intact and are being operated as usual. The land lines in Santo Domingo are rendered useless, and until further notice will be so. In Porto Rico the land lines are badly crippled, and all Government messages will have to be sent or taken by post."

The manager of the cable department of the Western Union Company said:

"Our cables and coast lines are as well as ever, and we have not noticed any defects. The land lines are completely prostrated, both in Porto Rico and Santo Domingo."

A Teaspoonful of  
**Abbey's Effervescent Salt**

taken every morning, will keep your blood pure and fortify your system against disease.

All Druggists.  
25c, 50c, and \$1 per bottle.